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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DIS[illegible]

SUBJECT Production at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat, Bitterfeld

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50X1-HUM

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. At the beginning of March 1946, dismantling orders were received at the IG Farben plant in Bitterfeld and, within three days, about 30,000 men were brought to the works to dismantle the following plants under the supervision of dismantling officers:

a. In Werk Nord:

The mercury electrolysis plant.
The new foundry, which had been built to produce ferro alloys and special products.
Large parts of the tungstic acid plant.
The molybdenum plant.
The jewel industry.
The formic acid plant.
The calcium formate plant.
The oxygen plant.

b. In Werk Süd:

Parts of the chlorate electrolysis plant.
The bichromate plant except for a few parts.
Large parts of the permanganate plant.
The modern high-pressure power plant in Thalheim, which was only complete during the war.
The nickel-plated autoclaves in the polymerization section of the synthetics department.
A series of apparatuses for the manufacture of polyvinylchloride.
Parts of the chlorobenzene plant.
The tricresol phosphate plant.
The new scrap-metal processing plant in the light metal department.
The 30,000-ton and the 15,000-ton forge presses in the light metal department.
Aluminum plant II.

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2. The plants dismantled amounted to about 65% of the total value. They were rated by the Russians at some 80,000,000 DM only.

3. The value of salable goods produced between 1947 and 1950 was as follows:

1947 - 109 million DM.
1949 - 181 million DM.
1950 - will exceed 200 million DM.
1951 - 215 million is expected; it may even reach 220-225 million DM.

4. The 1951 plan for the improvement and expansion of the Elektrochemisches Kombinat is ~~as follows~~.

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a. Caustic soda lye.

The construction of a new caustic soda electrolysis plant with 66 mercury tanks is in full swing. It is calculated that the electrolyzer will be working by 1 January 1951. The capacity of the caustic soda plant in Bitterfeld will be about 60,000 tons in 1951.

b. Potassium permanganate.

By the erection of 10 new larger electrolysis tanks the capacity will be raised to 150 tons per month and 1,800 tons per year.

c. Potassium bichromate.

Only a few minor industrial extensions are planned. Capacity has not actually been raised. Production will be about 2,500 tons per year.

d. Potassium and sodium chlorate.

Because of the lack of the proper magnetite electrodes, the industry has had to combat great difficulties in the last few years, so that the question of the substitution of magnetite electrodes by graphite electrodes has lately become acute. In view of the great demand for chlorate an increase in production is desired, but has not yet been finally decided. Monthly production 1,100 - 1,500 tons.

e. Graphite electrodes.

An increase in production to 900 tons per month is planned.

f. Synthetic Department.

1) The investments for the industries dealing with synthetics are considerable. A new 4-cylinder calender of the most modern design is being set up in Bitterfeld and is to take over the production of all kinds of foil. In particular, it is intended to manufacture foil .1 mm thick for packing. A further plan is to construct a plant for the manufacture of "Igelit" floor covering. This plant will consist of a calender and 3 or 4 rolling mills. The plant, which at the moment has not been ordered, is to be ready for production by the third quarter of 1951.

2) "Vinidur" piping of various dimensions is to be produced in greater quantities. At present, 2 tube presses with a capacity of 25 tons per month are available for use. The construction of 2 additional tube presses is planned, while the decision about a fifth press has not yet been made. Monthly requirements of the Soviet Zone are estimated at about 100 tons. The tubes are used as roof gutter piping as well as for the entire cold water plumbing system in house construction and as pipes for the different sections in the chemical industry. A coating machine which was built some years ago is to be installed for coating paper and for producing washable wallpaper.

3) In the field of high-frequency welding much important progress has been made, and many products such as air cushions, bicycles, waterproof bags, waterproof raincoats, etc. are to be produced in the coming year.

g. "Igelit" PCU.

An expansion of the PCU plant is not planned, since the Bunawerke in Schkopau can produce 1,500 tons per month at present. Enameled autoclaves will be gradually exchanged for nickel-plated ones in the coming year to safeguard production. The capacity of the PC plant is to be raised to about 60 tons per month through the installation of a third drier and the expansion of the distillation plant for tetrachloroethylene. The enlargement of the paste installation is being considered, but has not yet been decided, because the development of the market for boots and shoes made from "Igelit" is being watched with some concern, since a considerable portion of the paste is being used for them. Twelve tons of glue solution and PC varnish are manufactured. In view of the heavy demand, production is to be raised to about 20 tons.

h. Tricresyl phosphate.

The production of tricresyl phosphate, which now amounts to about 180 tons a month, is to be raised to 250 tons a month. The production of "Cesarol" will be increased from 45 to 60 tons a month. These expansions will be attained with small financial outlay.

i. Methylene chloride.

The production of methylene chloride from methanol and chlorine is planned. The Filmfabrik Wolfen needs about 100-150 tons for cellulose acetate and Bitterfeld itself needs 15 tons a month as a solvent for glue solutions.

j. Benzenehexachloride.

The manufacture of benzenehexachloride is to be started in 1951. A production of 3 tons a month is planned at first.

k. Insecticides.

The demand for insecticides is estimated at about 15,000 tons a year. The Schering AG and Fahlberg-List also produce substantial amounts of these insecticides.

l. Formic acid.

The production of formic acid will probably be resumed in 1951. A need has arisen for the manufacture of camphor and about 100 tons of formic acid will be required (sic). Whether these specifications actually are correct could not be absolutely determined when a visit was paid to the Hauptverwaltung Chemie in Berlin. The existing machinery in Bork Mark could be completed and a production of about 350 - 400 tons a month of calcium formate could be reached at a cost of 400,000 DM. About 120 tons of formic acid can be produced from this calcium formate by decomposing it with H_2SO_4, while 100 tons of calcium formate is available for the needs of agriculture.

m. Aluminum.

Planned production in 1951 - 3,000 tons
Planned production in 1952 -15,000 tons.

n. Sodium.

The Elektrochemisches Kombinat, Bitterfeld, has been requested several times by the government to produce sodium, because 30 tons per month are needed for the production of lead tetraethyl. In view of the difficulty of carrying this out and the very low price obtained, the plant has so far refused to start such production. The question may be raised again in 1951.

o. Nickel carbonyl.

Nickel carbonyl and iron carbonyl were occasionally produced at Bitterfeld but since the plant has little experience in the field of high pressure, production is likely to be transferred to Leuna.

p. Lead-calcium-barium and lead-calcium-sodium alloys.

Experiments in the field of lead-bearing metals have had favorable results, so that a small production of lead-calcium-barium and lead-calcium-sodium alloys is to be started. These alloys, in combination with magnesium, have proved themselves most excellent as bearing alloys for locomotive supports, which are subjected to great strain.

q. Iron alloys.

In the 1951 plan, provision has been made for the production of iron alloys, such as ferro-chrome, ferro-tungsten, ferro-vanadium and ferro-molybdenum, starting from the fourth quarter. The quantities are not yet known and depend on the production program of the steel works. It is calculated, at any rate, that there will be a growing demand from 1952 on. On the other hand, to the present, little attention has been paid by the Russians to the plan to produce magnesium.

r. Nitrogen.

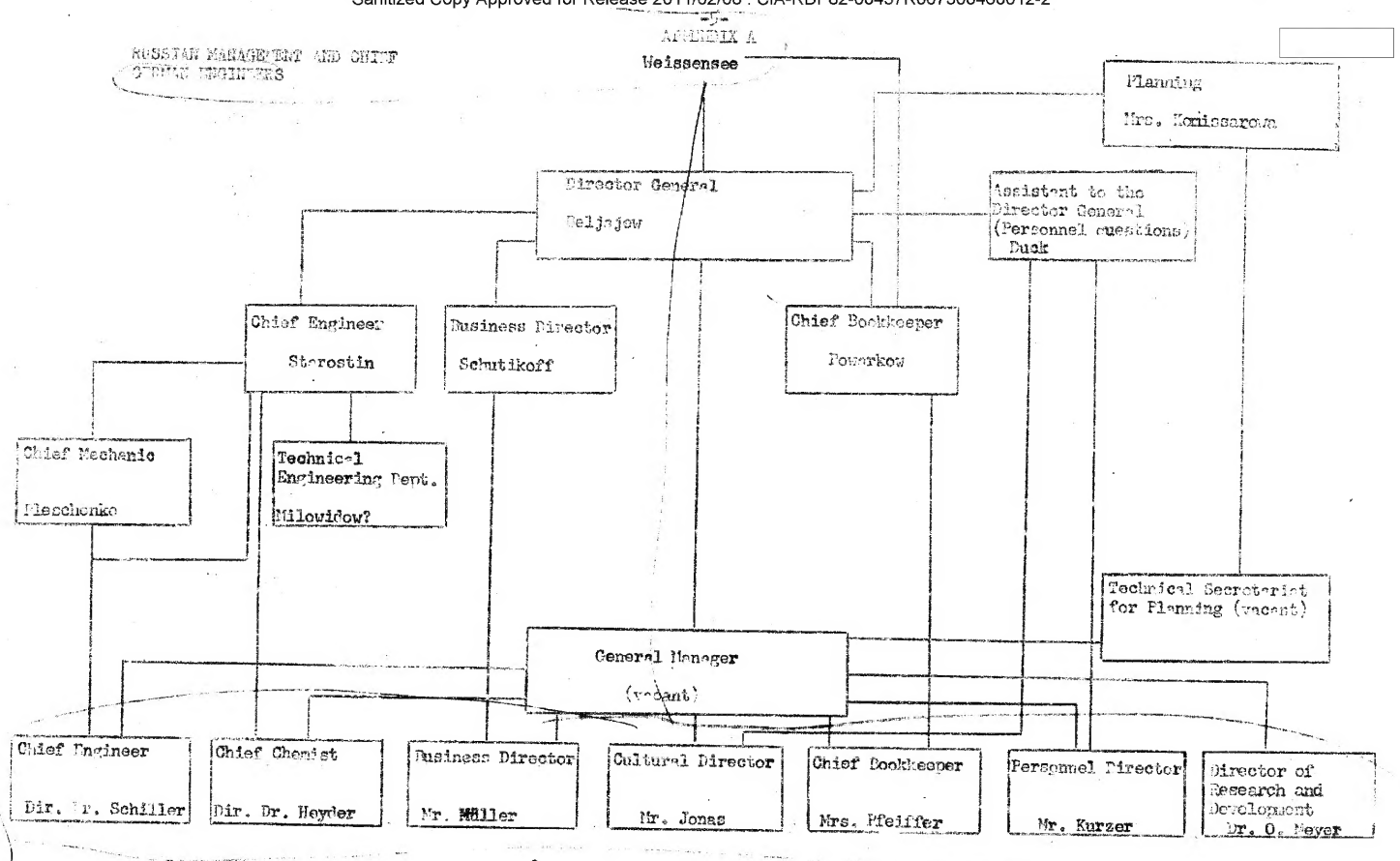
The production of the nitrogen department will remain at about the same level as in 1950.

s. Cleaning materials.

One thousand two hundred tons a month are to be produced in the coming year for industrial use.

5. The sums of the investments for the new plants and general repairs for 1951 have not yet been finally established. A sum of 15 to 20 million DM was suggested by the Germans, and 15 million DM by the Russians. It is expected that a sum of 10 million DM will be allotted for new plants and general repairs; 7 million DM for the new plants and 3 million DM for general repairs. This will mean that individual projects will be limited.

6. The power station will have only 1 million DM at its disposal in 1951, and will be able to carry out only the most urgent repairs. The one or two new boilers which are urgently required will not be able to be built. It is perhaps of interest to know in this connection that the supply of power in the Zone is endangered by the growing industry. It is intended to build 3 power stations with a total of 450 million watts, probably similar to the Thalheim high-pressure power station.



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APPENDIX B

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The Engineering Division

HEAD ENGINEER DIR. DR. SCHELLER
DEPUTY TO THE HEAD ENGINEER OBER-ING. GRUHLE

Credit Control Office	Ing. Cross	Supervision of credits for new installations and general repairs as well as of the plants' budgets
Blueprint Construction Department	Ob.-Ing. Pflumm	Complete designs for new installations, the development of new processes, etc.
Power Station 150 MW Machine Department Electrical Department	Director Ob.-Ing. Deinecke Dipl.-Ing. Weissmann Ing. Maschberg	
Main Workshop	Ob.-Ing. Kölsch	The entire Süd Werk is contained in a row of smaller workshops
Engineering Department D	Dipl -Ing. Schütz	Controls the workshops of the Nord Werk.
Engineering Department E	Ober.-Ing. Mainzer	All of the work which falls into the category of electrical engineering: Repairs New installations Establishment of electrolysis plants. Does not include the power station, however.
Engineering Department B	Ober.-Ing. Borsbach	All construction work; furnace masonry; linings for reservoirs, electrolytic baths, etc.
Heat Processing Department	Ob.-Ing. Hofmann	Supervision of steam consumption. Construction and supervision of measuring instruments, signal and safety equipment.
Engineering Department M	Ob.-Ing. Pfabe	Supervising of the Light Metals Department. Repairing of presses, smelting furnaces. New aluminum plant.
Testing Department	Dr. Holub	Examination of all materials which are used for building and repair. Especially, testing of the solidity-properties, such as the traction-bending strength, dilatation and expansion

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APPENDIX C

The Chemical Division

CHIEF CHEMIST - DIR. DR. HEYDER
DEPUTY TO THE CHIEF CHEMIST - DR. OTTO SCHELLT

INORGANIC DEPARTMENT - DR. EHLERS

Sodium hydrate electrolysis	Dr. Mehlhorn	capacity	~9,000	tons per year
Caustic potash electrolysis	Dr. Bornhak	"	~7,500	" " "
Caustic potash foundry	" "	"	~1,000	" " "
Potassium bichromate	Dr. Weitendorf	"	2,200 - 2,300	" " "
Chromic acid	" "	"	250	" " "
Potassium permanganate	Dr. Lange	"	~1,450	" " "
Potash	Dr. Fritze	"	6,750	" " "
Potassium chlorate and sodium chlorate	Dr. Schindler Dr. Weissbrodt	"	~4,000	" " "
Magnetite electrodes	Dr. Markl	"	750	" " "
Titanium white	Dr. Bopp	"	undetermined ~750	tons per year
Phosphorus	Dr. Dahlem Dr. Ordning	"	1,450	" " "
Barium chloride	Dr. Bopp	"	1,500 - 1,800 production greatly limited	" " "
Hydrochloric acid	Dr. Künzel-Wehmer	capacity	20,000 - 22,000 (100 %)	" " "
Chlorine (liquid)	" " "	"	7,200	" " "
Graphite electrodes	Dipl. Ing. Winkler	"	9,000	" " "
Caustic lime	Dr. Bopp	Production only with regard to carbon dioxide for bichromate and permanganate		
Acid cement, "Igurit", "Tirasal" and several lesser products				
Calcium (Std)	Dr. Seliger		300	tons per year
Calcium (distilled)	" "		300	" " "

ORGANIC DEPARTMENT - DR. GROSSL

Tricresyl phosphate	Dr. v.d. Bruck		2,200	tons per year
Triphenyl phosphate	" " " "		~ 120	" " "
Chloral Chloral hydrate	Dr. Engelmann		~ 100 -	150 tons (varying greatly)
Carbon tetrachloride	Dr. Bandtel	capacity	3,600;	Production: 2,000 - 2,500 tons per year
"Cesarol"	Dr. Ruppert		950	" " "
Chlorbenzene	" "		~ 1,000	" " "
Phosphorus oxychloride; Phosphorus trichloride	Dr. v.d. Bruck	capacity	~ 1,000	" " "
Benzoic acid	" " " "		~ 200	" " "
Oxalic acid (crystallized)	Dr. Hiller		1,000	" " "
Lesser products, such as: "Bladan", Benzyl chloride, Benzoyl chloride, Benzal chloride.				

SYNTHETIC MATERIALS DEPARTMENT - DR. GROSSL

"Igelit" PCU	Dr. Teubner		6,000	tons per year
"Igelit" PC	Dr. Schaarschmidt		540	" " "
"Vinidur" technische Formartikel	Ing. Kippenhohn	capacity according to different production		
"Igelit" technische Formartikel	Ing. Holzhausen	"	" " " "	"
"Igelit" pastes	Ing. Holzhausen		1,800 - 2,000	tons per year
"Igelit" shoes and boots	" "		600,000	pairs per year
Glue and varnishes	" "		150	tons per year
A great number of products made from "Vinidur" and "Igelit"				

LIGHT METALS DEPARTMENT - DR. OSTERMANN

Blocks of aluminum alloys	Ing. Koch	~ 6,000	tons per year
Blocks of magnesium alloys	" "	~ 3,600	" " "
Extruding press semi-finished products	Dipl. Ing. Fiedler	with variations in profile	
Sand castings	Dipl. Ing. Wisniewski	varying according to type of casting	
Chilled castings	Dipl. Ing. Griesemann	" " " " " "	
Manganese hard steel, chrome steel, welding alloys, cobalt oxalate, boracic acid			
Very pure aluminum	Dr. Lang	100	tons per year
Foundry aluminum	" "	900	" " "

NITROGEN DEPARTMENT - DR. BIELENBERG

Lime ammonium nitrate	Dr. Forst	150,000	tons per year
Ammonium nitrate	Dr. Meyer	12,000 - 13,000	" " "
Crude nitric acid	Dr. Forst	combustion capacity 65 - 68 tons per day	

WERK NORD - DR. LOPIG

Caustic soda lye	Dr. Heymann	42,000	tons per year
Liquid chlorine (Cord)	" "	10,000	" " "
"Siliron"	Herr Reiniger	~ 15,000	" " "
Precious stone workshop	Herr Hänger	2.4	" " "
Calcium Metal (Cord)	Dr. Hochstetter	~ 80	" " "
Cerium alloy	" "	~ 22	" " "
Cerium flints	" "	~ 18	" " "
Barium metal	" "	2.4	" " "
Calcium hypochlorite	Dr. Tomélé	~ 2,000	" " "
Various products such as, tungstic acid, ammonium paratungstate			

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